

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises causing an eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with a microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass.
2. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein a mechanically transported series of poultry carcasses is automatically transported into an apparatus in which the poultry carcass is subjected to said inside-outside washing.
3. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.
4. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein in said inside-outside washing, pressurized sprays of the microbiocidal water solution are applied to the exterior of the carcass so that the exterior of the carcass is thoroughly cleansed, and optionally the exterior of the carcass is also automatically mechanically scrubbed.
5. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 1-4 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.
- 6.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) In the slaughter and processing of poultry as a meat product, the improvement which comprises:

- a) causing (i) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin and (ii) at least one unopened defeathered poultry carcass to come into contact with each other before the carcass is opened, whereby the carcass exterior is wetted by such water for a period of time sufficient to provide microbiocidal activity on the wet exterior of the carcass;
- b) opening and eviscerating the carcass that was wetted in a);
- c) causing the eviscerated carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein the washing is effected by use of an inside-outside washing apparatus through which the carcass is conveyed, and wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass;
- d) causing the carcass that was washed in c) to be placed in a chill tank and brought into contact with chill water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, said carcass being in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a preselected low temperature;
- e) causing the chilled carcass to be removed from the chill tank; and
- f) before packaging the chilled carcass, causing (i) the chilled carcass and (ii) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin to come into contact with each other.

24. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in f), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said chilled carcass.

25. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in f), said chilled carcass is immersed in the water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin.

26-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

30. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein in at least one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

31. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 24 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 31 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

34. (Previously presented) The improvement as in any of Claims 23 or 33 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

35-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

39. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein in at least one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

40. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 25 wherein to cause the contacting in a), water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is sprayed on said defeathered poultry carcass.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 40 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

43. (Previously presented) The improvement as in any of Claims 38 or 42 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

44. (Original) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein to cause the contacting in a) said defeathered poultry carcass is caused to travel through a body of water treated with at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin while immersed in said body of water.

45. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein in at least one of a), c), d), and f), the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

46. (Previously presented) The improvement as in Claim 23 wherein the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the interior cavity of said carcass is treated with a higher concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin than the concentration of the at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin used in the treated water applied by the spray delivery system to the exterior said carcass.

47. (Original) The improvement as in any of Claims 44-46 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

48.-58. (Cancelled)

59. (New) The improvement as in Claim 1 wherein the 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 50 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

60. (New) In the processing of poultry for consumption as a meat product, the improvement which comprises causing an eviscerated poultry carcass to be subjected to inside-outside washing with a microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin, wherein in said inside-outside washing, the interior cavity of a transported poultry carcass is penetrated by a spray probe so that (i) contaminants together with (ii) microbiocidal water solution that is sprayed into the interior cavity of the poultry by the probe, drain from the carcass, wherein said inside-outside washing is conducted with a contact time of 60 seconds or less.

61. (New) The improvement as in Claim 60 wherein said microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is utilized in said inside-outside washing within two hours of the formation of said solution.
62. (New) The improvement as in Claim 60 wherein said contact time is in the range of 30 to 60 seconds.
63. (New) The improvement as in Claim 62 wherein said microbiocidal solution of water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is utilized in said inside-outside washing within two hours of the formation of said solution.
64. (New) The improvement as in any of Claims 60-63 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.
65. (New) The improvement as in Claim 60 wherein said at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin consists essentially of 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin wherein said contact time is in the range of 30 to 60 seconds, and wherein said microbiocidal amount of said 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin is at least 45 ppm when said contact time is 60 seconds and is in the range of 45 to 75 ppm when said contact time is the range of 30 to 60 seconds.
66. (New) In the slaughter and processing of poultry as a meat product, the improvement which comprises causing (i) water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin and (ii) at least one unopened defeathered poultry carcass to come into contact with each other before the carcass is opened, whereby the time for the defeathered carcass to travel from a defeathering stage to a carcass opening and evisceration stage is in the range of about 2 to 240 seconds, the water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is at a temperature of about 5 to about 30° C and in an amount to achieve a relative bromine residual in the amount of about 3 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine, such that the exterior carcass is wetted by such water for a period of time sufficient to provide microbiocidal activity of the wet exterior of the carcass.

67. (New) The improvement as in Claim 66 wherein the water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin is in an amount to achieve a relative bromine residual in the amount of about 50 to about 100 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine.

68. (New) The improvement as in Claim 66 further causing the carcass after opening to be placed in a chill tank and brought into contact with chill water treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin such to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 2 to about 150 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine, said carcass being in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a temperature in the range of 0 to 7° C.

69. (New) The improvement as in Claim 68 wherein the chill water is treated with a microbiocidal amount of at least one 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dialkylhydantoin such to achieve a bromine residual in the range of about 15 to about 50 ppm (wt/wt) as free bromine and the carcass is in said chill water for a period of time that is at least sufficient for the carcass to reach a temperature in the range of 1 to 5° C.